

Women represented at Trucking 2016

WORDS BY WOMEN IN ROAD TRANSPORT CHAIR, MERYN MORRISON



Meryn Morrison

I feel lucky to have been part of a team representing the Women in Road Transport network at the recent TMC Trailers Trucking 16 event at the old Wigram Airforce Base in Christchurch. For those of you who haven't been to this event, it is an absolutely fantastic celebration of our industry.

I was told that this year, the Show & Shine attracted a record 338 trucks, all of which were enjoyed and admired by the thousands of Cantabrians who came along to see the show. It made for an amazing sight with so many kids and families mingling among the trucks. Many hours of effort and many litres of polish must have been consumed to achieve the shine that reflected the pride each driver had for their vehicle.

Congratulations to Road Transport Association Region 4 and the NZ Trucking Association for running such a highly successful event. It is the biggest trucking show in the South Island and right up there



Jess Johns with her Best Volvo in Show Award and Meryn Morrison

with others I have been to around the rest of the country. The organisation and venue were top class, and for those of us with exhibition booths, the support was excellent. Thanks to Fiona Pace and Deborah O'Brien for helping to man our booth all day.

Two women who stood out in Show & Shine were Jess Johns of Regal Group, who won the Best Volvo in Show Award, and Amanda Buller of ATL who won the Women in Road Transport Prize for best women Show & Shine. WIRT extends our thanks to Volvo for their sponsorship and the donation of a jacket for the event.

Congratulations to all the prize winners from the day and also well done to the judges as it must have been a difficult task

to pick winners out from such a high-quality field.

We also had a great turnout to our exhibition booth, which was heartening to see. One of the recurring themes from women who came to see us was the request for WIRT to provide a platform for women inside and outside the industry to share ideas, provide support, and act as a forum to discuss the issues they face in a male-dominated industry. This is exactly what WIRT has been set up to do, so it is great to know that there is a demand for the same.

Most women love the industry, but a number did approach us with comments that in general, transport companies could be doing more to attract women, and some also related to experiences of gender prejudice that they have been exposed to while working in the industry.

Another interesting piece of feedback that we received at the show was that women are often recognised as being safer drivers and are definitely not as hard on the gear as their male colleagues. This matches similar anecdotal advice from both Australia and the United States and is another reason why transport operators should work to attract women to their business.

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts and ideas with other women in the industry, you can contact us through our Facebook page [womeninroadtransportnz](https://www.facebook.com/womeninroadtransportnz) or our dedicated page on the RTF website. A membership form is also available for those keen to join us. ■

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